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Title: Need to set up Chilli-based Food Processing Units in Guntur and to undertake welfare measures for the Chilli growers in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Chilli growers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh are facing a miserable situation for multifarious reasons. Andhra Pradesh produces a variety of Chillies in different qualities. Out of the total production of 13,49,560 MT of Chillies in the country in 2007-08, Andhra Pradesh alone accounted for 7,72,000 MT, that is 57.20%. There has been a marked improvement in the exports of Indian Chillies from a mere Rs. 27 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 1097 crore in 2007-08.

I would request the Government to give training in crop management, post-harvest improvement practices, storage so that Chilli growers reap full benefits. Chilli growers lack proper healthcare, educational and social needs for their children. It is certainly a great cause for worry. There has been a consistent demand for ensuring remunerative prices to Chilli growers and an assured market and supply of inputs.

I would strongly urge the Central Government to extend financial assistance to the Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up Food Processing Units for Chilli Products in Guntur which is producing world famous Chillies and which has got huge export potential in the country and also address welfare measures for healthcare, educational and social needs of Chilli growers of Andhra Pradesh.